

Summer Reading Suggestions

Students Entering Grade 5, September 2017

April 30, 2017

Dear Parents,

During the summer holidays, we recommend that students read regularly in French and English. Below you will find some suggestions categorized by level of difficulty. Level of difficulty is determined either by literary features (vocabulary, figurative language, etc.) or maturity of themes.

While reading, please ask your daughter some of the questions (see below); this will promote inferencing skills and understanding. In addition, it will allow them to share their reactions with you and will be more likely to appreciate the novel. After the holidays we will continue the discussion in class. No summary or report shall be required at the beginning of the year.

For your choice of a summer reading book, feel free to choose among the titles listed below or any other book that you consider interesting. One of the pleasures of reading is that it can be done anywhere! Happy summer reading!

Why Read? The Benefits of Daily Reading:

Studies show that “the more students read, the better readers they become” (Mraz, 2007).

Reading over the summer allows students to maintain or further develop their reading skills.

Reading brings the world to your child on many levels, allowing students to develop their imaginations and vocabulary, learn about other people and places.

Reading as a family, on a daily basis, gives families different opportunities to discuss ideas, share opinions and enjoy quality time together.

Source: Mraz, 2007, Summer Reading Loss, *Issues and Trends in Literacy*

Suggested Questions for parents/Suggestions de questions pour les parents

1. Where is the setting of the story? Use adjectives to describe where the story took place.

Où l'histoire se déroule-t-elle? Utilise des adjectifs afin de décrire l'un des lieux principaux de l'histoire.

2. Who are the characters in the story? Name them and describe their personality traits. Use examples to support your answer.

Qui sont les principaux personnages du récit? Nomme-les et décris quelques-unes de leurs caractéristiques physiques et morales. Utilise des exemples du texte.

3. What is one of the themes or one of the lessons learned in the story? Explain how you know.

Selon toi, quel est l'un des thèmes de l'histoire ou l'une des leçons? Donne un exemple qui le démontre.

4. What is the solution to the problem in the story? Can you think of another ending to the story? What would you do differently if you were in the story?

Quelle solution vient régler ce problème dans le récit? Quelle autre solution pourrais-tu proposer? Que ferais-tu si tu te retrouvais dans l'histoire?

5. How does the main character change from the beginning to the end of the story? Be specific.

Comment le personnage principal a-t-il évolué ou changé du début à la fin de l'histoire? Nomme ces différences et explique-les. (Le personnage est devenu...)

6. Find a passage in the story and relate it to your personal experiences or to another novel.

Trouve un passage de l'histoire qui te rappelle tes propres expériences (à l'école, dans ta famille, en vacances, etc.) ou une autre histoire?

7. How did the author capture your interest (e.g. dialogue, humour, interesting vocabulary, etc.)? Be specific and give examples.

Quelles sont les qualités du travail de l'auteur qui te font apprécier l'histoire? Donne des exemples. (dialogues, vocabulaire, humour, etc.)

8. Why do you think the author wrote the book? How do you know?

Quelle était l'intention de l'auteur en écrivant ce livre? Pourquoi, selon toi, a-t-il écrit ce livre?

Suggested Titles

Level of Difficulty: Easy

| Author | Title | Genre |
|--|---|--------------------|
| Robert C. O'Brian | Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh | Fantasy |
| Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, must move her family to their summer quarters immediately, or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of Nimh, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. | | |
| Lenny Hort and Laaren Brown | DK Biography - Nelson Mandela Biography | Non-Fiction |
| Nelson Mandela was the first black president of South Africa, and spent 27 years in prison in his fight against apartheid. His life is a shocking, stunning, and heroic story of the struggle for freedom in a divided society, and an inspiring example of one individual's power to bring peace to a nation. | | |
| Lois Lowry | Number the Stars | Historical Fiction |
| As the German troops begin their campaign to "relocate" all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war. | | |
| Andrew Clements | Lunch Money | Realistic fiction |
| Greg Kenton has two obsessions -- making money and his long-standing competition with his annoying neighbor, Maura Shaw. So when Greg discovers that Maura is cutting into his booming Chunky Comics business with her own original illustrated minibooks, he's ready to declare war. The problem is, Greg has to admit that Maura's books are good, and soon the longtime enemies become unlikely business partners. But their budding partnership is threatened when the principal bans the sale of their comics in school. Suddenly, the two former rivals find themselves united against an adversary tougher than they ever were to each other. Will their enterprise -- and their friendship -- prevail? | | |

Level of Difficulty: Average

| Author | Title | Genre |
|---|------------------|--------------------|
| Sharon Creech | Ruby Holler | Fantasy |
| <p>"Trouble twins" Dallas and Florida are orphans who have given up believing there is such a thing as a loving home. Tiller and Sairy are an eccentric older couple who live in the beautiful, mysterious Ruby Holler, but they're restless for one more big adventure. When they invite the twins to join them on their journeys, they first must all stay together in the Holler, and the magic of the place takes over. Two pairs of lives grow closer, and are changed forever.</p> | | |
| Tamora Pierce | Page | Fantasy |
| <p>Eleven-year-old Keladry of Mindelan is the only female page in training at the royal palace. In addition to having to deal with the problems of becoming a young woman during her three years of training, she also has to put up with other pages who want to</p> | | |
| Roald Dahl | Boy | Autobiography |
| <p>Boy is the story of Roald Dahl's very own boyhood, including tales of sweet shops and chocolate, mean old ladies and a Great Mouse Plot - the inspiration for some of his most marvelous storybooks in the years to come.</p> | | |
| Pam Muñoz Ryan | Esperanza Rising | Historical Fiction |
| <p>Esperanza thought she'd always live with her family on their ranch in Mexico--she'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home, and servants. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When their new life is threatened, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.</p> | | |

Level of Difficulty: Advanced

| Author | Title | Genre |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| R. J. Palacio | Wonder | Realistic Fiction |
| <p>August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.</p> | | |
| Hilary McKay | Saffy's Angel | General Fiction |
| <p>After Saffron Casson discovers that she's adopted, life is never quite the same again. Her artistic parents and doting siblings adore her, but Saffy wants a piece of her past. So when her grandfather bequeaths a stone angel to her, Saffy knows she has to find it. Realising that her childhood in Siena holds the key, she secretly stows away on a car trip to Siena with her new friend, Sarah. Meanwhile, the rest of her family is engaged in their own wacky projects. Caddy, a hopeless student, is studying for her A Levels and desperately trying to pass her driving test. Indigo, the sole boy of the Casson family is determined to rid himself of this fear of heights. And the youngest, Rose, a budding artist, has a knack for baiting her pompous dad, with entertaining results.</p> | | |
| Trenton Lee Stewart | The Mysterious Benedict Society | Adventure |
| <p>Dozens of children respond to this peculiar ad in the newspaper and are then put through a series of mind-bending tests, which readers take along with them. Only four children—two boys and two girls—succeed. Their challenge: to go on a secret mission that only the most intelligent and inventive children could complete. To accomplish it they will have to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. But what they'll find in the hidden underground tunnels of the school is more than your average school supplies. So, if you're gifted, creative, or happen to know Morse Code, they could probably use your help.</p> | | |
| C.S.Lewis | The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe | Fable |
| <p>The four Pevensie children are living in a large house in the country, a house with many rooms, which are filled with many things. But one of the rooms is absolutely empty, except for a single piece of furniture: a large wardrobe. It is a wardrobe, the children discover, which has magical properties.</p> | | |